GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1032
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
CLUSTER FOR EXPANSION OF TELEPHONE NETWORK
Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up additional clusters for expansion of telephone network in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of clusters which are likely to be set up;

(c) the number of villages which will be benefited by these clusters; and

(d) the time by which the telephone facility is likely to be set up in all such areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a)&(b) A scheme has been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provision of subsidy support for setting up and managing 7,871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) for providing mobile services spread across 500 districts in 27 States. A Group of Districts with two or more Districts have been clubbed together to constitute a Cluster for the purpose of bidding. Each Cluster has been assigned a unique Cluster Number and 81 such Clusters have been formed in the country for setting up these towers.

(c) & (d) A total number of 2,12,304 villages are likely to be covered under the Scheme. USOF has entered into an agreement with the successful bidders, which has become effective from 01.06.2007. Mobile services through these shared towers are targeted to be made operational in a phased manner by May, 2008.